

APR 16 2008

Application No. 09/886,663

Filed: June 21, 2001

TC Art Unit: 1616

Confirmation No.: 4750

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17-29 are pending. Claims 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 were previously canceled. Claims 1-2, 4, 7, 11, 15, and 17-20 are withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17-29 are subject to a species election requirement. Claims 5, 9, and 13, which are presently under consideration, are generic. An election of a single species for initial search and examination is required from among the following species of continuous polymeric film:

- (i) a polymeric film comprising crosslinked polyvinylalcohol;
- (ii) a polymeric film comprising crosslinked polyvinylalcohol that is applied to an expanded microporous film of polytetrafluoroethylene; and
- (iii) a polymeric film comprising a copolymer of ethylene and vinyl alcohol.

Applicant hereby elects species (ii), a polymeric film comprising crosslinked polyvinylalcohol that is applied to an expanded microporous film of polytetrafluoroethylene, for initial search and examination. This species is encompassed by claims 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 21-26.

-9-

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The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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-10-

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